



# U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212-0001 • 202-691-5200 • [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

## Current Employment Statistics

### *What data does the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Program produce?*

CES reports current employment and changes in the level of employment as well as the hours and earnings of employees across a broad range of industries on a monthly basis. The data come from a scientific sample of businesses including 390,000 individual worksites and are available nationally, by state, and by metropolitan area.

### *How is CES data used?*

#### **Private Sector**

- To guide decisions on plant location, sales, and purchases;
- To compare employment, hours, and earnings in your business to the industry or economy as a whole;
- To determine the employment base of states and areas for bond ratings;
- To analyze phases of the business cycle using employment and hours series;

#### **Public Sector**

- To evaluate the economic health of the labor market;
- To guide fiscal and monetary policy decisions;
- To forecast tax revenues for the nation, states, and areas;
- To measure employment, hours, and earnings as a means of determining growth in industries and in the economy as a whole;
- As an input into personal income (BEA), indices of industrial production (FRB), occupational projections (BLS), and production measures (BLS).

### *What can you learn from CES data?*

- Current levels and trends in payroll employment;
- Current levels and trends in hours and earnings including overtime hours in manufacturing;
- Time series back to at least 1990 with some series as far back as 1939;
- Data for 1,005 industries and all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 400 metropolitan areas and divisions;
- Over 200 special derivative series, such as indices of aggregate hours and constant dollar earnings;

### *When are the data available to you?*

CES national data are the most timely available, released on the third Friday after the conclusion of the pay period which contains the 12th of the month. CES state and metropolitan area data are released later in the month, usually two to three weeks after the national data are released. For example, CES national data pertaining to September will be released on the 3rd of October, 2008, followed by state and area data on the 21st of October.

### *Where can you find the information?*

CES data are available on the BLS webpage at [www.bls.gov/ces/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ces/home.htm). You may also email us at [cesinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cesinfo@bls.gov) or call at (202) 691-6555 for national data, or at [ces\\_sa@bls.gov](mailto:ces_sa@bls.gov) and (202) 691-6559 for state or metropolitan area data. In addition, an automated email can be sent to you when data are made available via this website, <http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm>.

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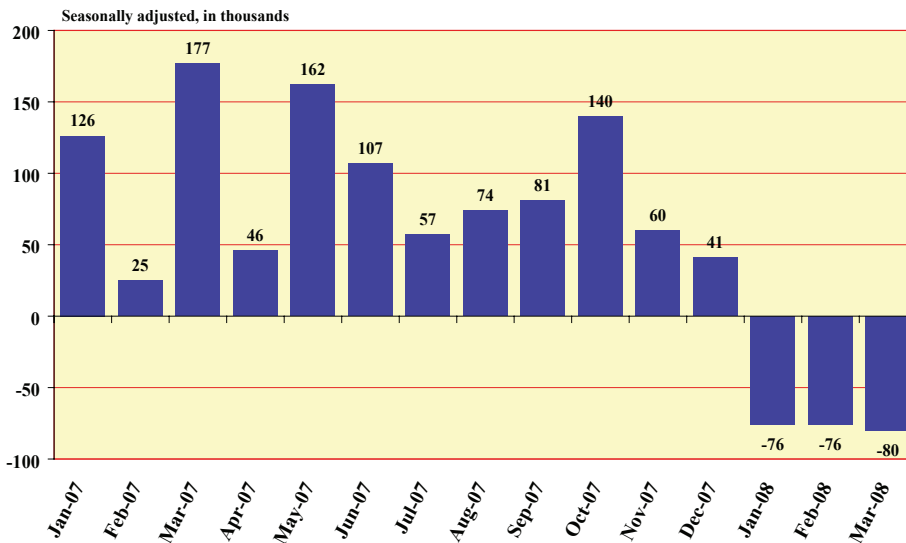
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## Current Employment Statistics

### Employment in Total Nonfarm

Over-the-month change, 2007 to 2008



- Nonfarm payroll employment edged down in March (-80,000). Over the past three months, nonfarm payroll employment has declined by 232,000.
- In the first quarter of 2008, employment has decreased by a monthly average of 77,000. This is down from monthly job increases of 75,000 in the last half of 2007 and of 107,000 during the first half of 2007.

### Employment in Georgia

Employment Level, 2007 to 2008

- Nonfarm payroll employment in Georgia rose slightly in March (2,100) to 4,182,500. Over the past three months, nonfarm payroll employment in Georgia has risen by 27,200.
- From January to February 2008, employment has decreased by 80,000 nationally, while employment in Georgia increased by 2,100 for the same time period.

